

From: Seth Heidkamp
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 10:10am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to share my views on the Microsoft Antitrust settlement. The government has rules that they were a monopoly and acted illegally, and the proposed settlement is a joke. First, there is no way to enforce any of the agreements; the penalty for non-compliance is an extended oversight period. This is like giving a convict parole, but if he doesn't meet the conditions (doesn't show up/consorts with known felons/etc) he just gets a longer parole. Second, Microsofts proposal to pay their fine with software to public schools is also ridiculous. They will be giving away a product at minimal cost to them (assuming that these schools would not have been able to afford the Windows software, Microsoft essentially pays for the CD, a cost of about \$5 for an \$800 software package) while getting credit at the monopoly-inflated rates for their donations, while also further increasing their monopoly in one of the few marketplaces they haven't saturated.

I think a more appropriate solution is to open up the API's to developers, the desktop to OEM's and distributors, and have the penalty for non-compliance or further illegal business practices be a breakup of the company.

Seth Heidkamp
Philadelphia, PA